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This statement represents the New York City Board of Higher Education's response to 4 of 5 "demands" negotiated earlier at City College by representatives of the college administration and student faculty. The Board previously approved a fifth item, that the Spanish language and Black and Puerto Rican history be required for all of the College's education majors. On the other issues, the Board approved the development of an institute and programs at senior and community colleges on Black and Puerto Rican studies, all to be subject to faculty and administrative control. Supplementary freshman orientation programs for specific groups of students were welcomed by the Board, provided all freshmen would be advised of the existence of such programs and ALL students who voluntarily wish to participate in them could do so. The Board called for the establishment of college departments that would include counselors and instructors of the SEEK Program, but a SEEK director would be appointed by the president of the university. Authority was also given to the colleges to form committees of SEEK students and faculty that would advise on student activities, curricula, and faculty recruitment. The Board also directed the Chancellor of the university to determine the feasibility of offering admission to all New York City high school graduates by September 1970 rather than by 1975. (WM)

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CUNY ADMISSIONS POLICY

STATEMENT OF POLICY BY THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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STATEMENT OF POLICY BY THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Perhaps no issue at the City University has ever received as much attention as the "Five Demands" at City College. Negotiations at City College were followed by lengthy and intensive review and analysis by the City College Faculty Senate and the City College Administration. The Student Senate at the College developed a position after careful study, and polls were taken of the entire faculty to gain more insight into the issues. The Board itself has devoted five special meetings to these issues, in addition to discussions at regular Board meetings and meetings of its Executive Committee.

The issues with which the Board was confronted transcended the immediate concerns of City College, and in fact the University itself. They are the basic issues of our City and of our society. In dealing with these issues, the Board was faced with the necessity of re-examining our programs and structures so as to meet legitimate needs and aspirations of all the City's youth, while at the same time preserving the educational integrity of the University, without which we would be perpetrating a cruel hoax upon all those who desire and deserve a higher education of true excellence. We believe that the actions we are directing meet both of these requirements.

The Board has already acted upon the matter of course requirements for education majors at the College. At its meeting of May 9, 1969, the Executive Committee, acting for the Board, approved Spanish language and Black and Puerto Rican history as requirements for all education majors at the college.

We now turn our attention to the other four negotiated items.

1. BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN STUDIES

The question of the development at City College of an institution devoted to a study of Black and Puerto Rican studies has served to focus the attention of the Board upon the responsibilities of the entire City University in this field.

In examining the present position of the University, we find that courses related to Black and Puerto Rican studies exist in each of our institutions. Indeed, in many of our colleges the number and variety of such courses offered through the traditional academic departments are impressive, particularly when compared with both present and projected programs of other institutions across the nation. Nevertheless, when considering the great body of knowledge existing in these areas, and the critical importance of these studies to the urban problems which the City University considers its prime commitment, it is our considered judgment that further efforts should be made, and made promptly.

We therefore state that it shall be the policy of the City University and its constituent colleges to encourage the development of programs of Black and Puerto Rican studies within the University, and to give the funding of these programs special priority. We further state that in view of our commitment both to the urban setting and to educational excellence, the University should establish as a goal the attainment of national preeminence and leadership in these fields.

The following guidelines shall govern the implementation of this goal:

(a) Programs at the senior colleges may be established as interdisciplinary degree programs, institutes or departments, or in some other structure as may be desirable at any college in view of its present programs, special strengths, or other factors peculiar to its operations.

(b) Programs at the community colleges may be established as course sequences, program options, or electives.

(c) The University will establish as quickly as possible Institutes for Research in Black and Puerto Rican Studies.

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(d) Black and Puerto Rican Studies shall not be organized as separate degree-granting schools within colleges until such time as the Board is satisfied that this is warranted by the attainment of such faculty and program strength as would deserve such status at any college within the University.

(e) All Black and Puerto Rican Studies programs, however organized, shall be subject to appropriate faculty and administrative control as provided for in the Bylaws of the Board.

The Faculty Senate at City College, after considering the role of the College in the establishment of programs in Black and Puerto Rican Studies, voted to create a committee to study this matter and to report back to it in the fall. In our view, because of the great importance and urgency of this matter, it would be inappropriate to begin the fall semester at City College with this issue still unresolved.

We therefore direct the Faculty Senate of City College, or any other faculty body as determined by the President, to begin immediately to prepare a proposed program in Black and Puerto Rican Studies consistent with the policies outlined above, and to submit that proposal to the President for transmission to the Board no later than August 15, 1969. We recognize the hardships and problems involved in asking the faculty to meet during the summer after they have obligated themselves to other activities. However, the commitment of the University requires that the faculty, as well as the administration and the Board, take whatever steps may be necessary to resolve this matter promptly and responsibly.

2. THE ORIENTATION OF BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS

The Board considers freshman orientation to be a matter falling under the jurisdiction of each college. Provided that the director of any orientation program is selected by Personnel and Budget Committee procedures consistent with the Bylaws of the Board, the Board will not substitute its judgment in this matter for that of the duly authorized college authorities. Nothing in the Board Bylaws or policies precludes the establishment of a student-faculty committee to recommend candidates for appointment or reappointment as the director of a program to a duly constituted departmental P & B Committee. The Board will welcome the establishment of supplementary orientation programs organized to meet the needs of any specific group of students provided that attendance at such programs is voluntary, and that all students who wish to participate in such programs may do so. Notification of the existence of such programs should be given to all freshmen.

3. GUIDELINES FOR SEEK

For the past several years, the SEEK Program at City College and other units of the University has operated outside the regular college departmental structure. This ad-hoc arrangement, which was established to permit rapid expansion during the early phases of the program's development, is no longer adequate to meet the needs of the program. In particular, some means must be found for appointing instructors and counsellors in the SEEK Program in a departmental structure so that they can be considered for promotion and tenure in the same way as other members of the instructional staff. We therefore direct the following:

(a) Each senior college shall establish a department which shall include counsellors in the SEEK Program and other programs of a similar nature. At the option of the President, teachers of remedial reading and other specialists outside the traditional academic disciplines who are hired to provide special services for SEEK and similar programs may either be included in this department, in a separate Department for Fundamental Education if such exists, or in a program of fundamental or remedial education in an existing department.

(b) The department shall be administered in the same manner as any other department of a college except that for a transitional five-year period, beginning September 1, 1969, the Chairman of this Department shall be the Director of the SEEK Program at each college, as designated by the President. The Personnel and Budget Committee of the department shall, for the same five-year period be comprised of the Dean of Faculty of the school or college, the Chairman of the department and three persons

designated by the president. The Personnel and Budget Committee shall recommend persons for tenure and promotion to the President of each college, who shall review appointments for tenure and promotion in consultation with the University.

(c) All persons teaching a subject for which there is an academic department in the college shall be hired by that academic department in accordance with established procedures in consultation with the Chairman of the department. Any exception to the above must be reported to, and approved by, the Committee on Expanded Educational Opportunity and the Board of Higher Education.

(d) The department shall strive to accelerate those enrolled in it to begin study in the regular college curriculum as rapidly as possible. Thus, with the exception of courses which combine remedial with course credit work, it should not offer credit courses. Where credit is given in such combined courses, it shall be only for the academic content and be approved by the appropriate academic department.

(e) The colleges have authority to develop student and faculty committees to advise on matters of curriculum, student activities, and faculty recruitment.

4. ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Board has given the most careful consideration to the questions of admissions policy raised by the City College negotiations. The negotiated agreement to increase the freshman class by admitting an additional group of students comprising half the class from among students attending certain high schools or residing in poverty areas in 1970, and the Faculty Senate resolution admitting an additional 400 such students each year, must be viewed in the context of the Board's own Master Plan. In 1964 the Board first enunciated its goal of providing higher educational opportunities for all City high school graduates by 1975. Considered in this perspective, the question of increased enrollments is no longer one of how many students should be admitted, but rather whether and how soon the resources adequate to meet our commitment to all the people of our City will be forthcoming.

The Board was impressed by the arguments of students and faculty that equal educational opportunity for all should be a reality now, and cannot wait until 1975. Both the University Senate and the Student Advisory Council have gone on record as favoring expansion of opportunity as rapidly as possible. Representatives of community groups, social agencies and labor unions who appeared before the Board during its recent hearings on the City College matter consistently and unequivocally called upon the Board to expand enrollment as a matter of educational desirability, social equity and economic necessity in our City.

In view of the positions taken by our own academic community and by representatives of the larger community which we serve, the Board has reappraised the policy which it established five years ago. We have concluded that the City University should initiate an open admissions policy as quickly as practicable. Accordingly, we are directing the Chancellor of the University to immediately determine the feasibility of initiating this policy at The City University of New York for September 1970. We regard achievement of this objective as an equitable and desirable answer to the question of admissions. In pursuit of this objective, the Chancellor's feasibility study shall include an examination of the financial and facilities implications, projections of needs for supportive services for the academically less prepared, and the possibilities of immediately founding additional units of the University. A general report on these matters shall be made to the Board no later than August 15, 1969, and a specific plan and recommendations shall be submitted by October 1, 1969, concurrent with the report of the University Commission on Admissions.

The plan shall make the following general provisions:

(a) It shall offer admission to some University program to all high school graduates of the City.

(b) It shall provide for remedial and other supportive services for all students requiring them.

(c) It shall maintain and enhance the standards of academic excellence of the colleges of the University.

(d) It shall result in the ethnic integration of the colleges.

(e) It shall provide for mobility for students between various programs and units of the University.

(f) It shall assure that all students who would have been admitted to specific community or senior colleges under the admissions criteria which we have used in the past shall still be so admitted. In increasing educational opportunity for all, attention shall also be paid to retaining the opportunities for students now eligible under present Board policies and practices.

The Chancellor is also instructed to undertake discussions with the Mayor and other elected City officials, the mayoralty candidates, the Governor, legislative leaders, and community groups in order to determine if adequate support for immediate implementation of an open enrollment plan will be forthcoming.

The Board notes that on May 5, 1969, it established a University Commission on Admissions composed of faculty, students, administrators, alumni, and representatives of community organizations, and charges this Commission to review and make recommendations concerning the admissions system of the University. We further charge the Commission to recommend a specific system of admissions criteria which will implement the preceding provisions, and which also will insure that each unit of the University is given significant responsibilities for preparing the academically less prepared student to engage in collegiate study. We do not want to provide the illusion of an open door to higher education which in reality is only a revolving door, admitting everyone but leading to a high proportion of student failure after one semester. The Commission shall include such recommendations in its report which is due to be submitted October 1, 1969.

Although the open admissions plan would be implemented in 1970, if practicable, this plan would not provide for the additional 300 students in September 1969 who were included in the negotiated agreement at City College and approved in the City College Faculty Senate resolution. In the face of the critical space shortage in campus facilities at City College, which prohibits any additional student enrollment in campus-centered teaching programs requiring small classes, tutoring sessions, etc., the Board cannot approve any additional on-campus enrollment of special program students at this time. We are, however, transferring to the jurisdiction of City College the University Center SEEK Program. We are authorizing City College to admit a minimum of 100 additional SEEK students beyond the number originally scheduled to be admitted into this program (400) in September 1969. The off-campus facility will be continued, but by September 1970 will become a freshman center as part of the University's overall effort to accommodate its open admission plan.

Adopted by the Board of Higher Education at a Special Meeting held July 9, 1969.